



**Linda S. Adams**  
*Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection*

## *NEWS RELEASE*

### **California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region**

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**Arnold  
Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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#### **CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER ISSUES \$24,750 PENALTY TO THE OAKS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN AMADOR COUNTY FOR SEWER SPILL**

The Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board has issued a \$24,750 Administrative Civil Liability Complaint to The Oaks Community Association in Amador County for violations of its waste discharge requirements, including the failure to provide timely verbal and written notification of a spill; and the failure to maintain its pumps in good working order, which allowed the spill to happen.

The Oaks Community Association failed to properly report or clean up a spill of approximately 125,000 gallons of raw sewage which took place between December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The spill occurred following failure of a lift station pump after a power outage. The pump did not re-start after power was restored. Raw sewage entered a broad drainage swale and a wetland-like area. However, there was no apparent direct discharge to the nearest surface water, Jackson Creek.

The Oaks Community Association was required to report the spill to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as soon as it was discovered; but the spill was not reported for five days, which delayed the Water Board oversight of the cleanup.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is a California state agency responsible for preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources. The Board may consider the complaint at its regular public board meeting on June 11 or 12, 2009.

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